

## Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OES-03 IO-10 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 8142

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MFM, TGEN, XM, UY

SUBJECT: MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WORKING GROUPS

REF: (A) MVD 321 (B) STATE 21495

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER

1. DCM MET AT FONMINISTRY MORNING JAN. 31 WITH SUB-SECRETARY MICHELIN AND DR. JORGE ALVAREZ WHO HEADS GOU DELEGATION TO WGSTT IN MONTEVIDEO. DCM REPEATED INFORMATION PASSED BY PHONE TO MICHELIN ON JAN. 30 DRAWN FROM REF. (B). DCM ALSO INFORMED MICHELIN AND ALVAREZ OF US VIEWS ON POSTPONEMENT OF WORKING GROUP ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 10.

2. DCM REFERRED TO FACT THAT DEPT'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING ARGENTINE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING POSTPONEMENT MFM AND EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON LATIN AMERICA HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO FONMINISTER BLANCO ON JAN. 28 AND 30 RESPECTIVELY. DCM NOTED DISAPPOINTMENT OF USG THAT BA-MFM HAD BEEN POSTPONED AND STATED ATTITUDE OF LATIN AMERICA AS EXPRESSED IN ARGENTINE COMMUNIQUE HAD LED US TO CONCLUSION THAT PREFERABLE TO POSTPONE WGSTT UNTIL FUTURE OF NEW DIALOGUE CLARIFIED. DCM WENT ON TO SAY -- CHARACTERIZING THEM AS PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS -- THAT SINCE  
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BOTH WORKING GROUPS FLOW FROM AND RELATE DIRECTLY TO MFM

ITSELF, OUR ATTITUDE SHOULD BE MORE UNDERSTANDABLE. IF

CONDITIONS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO HOLDING MFM, THEN EQUALLY UNDERSTANDABLE WE SHOULD BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE UTILITY IN WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AT THIS TIME.

3. FINALLY, DCM LAID STRESS ON FACT THAT OUR DECISION WITH RESPECT WGSTT MEETING HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH URUGUAY. ON CONTRARY, DCM HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED PASS ON TO FONMIN BLANCO DEPT'S DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS AND GOU'S CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS MFM AND NEW DIALOGUE IN GENERAL. WE HOPED WE COULD CONTINUE BE ABLE WORK TOGETHER IN FUTURE IN SAME POSITIVE WAY.

4. ALVAREZ REPLIED THAT HE REGRETTED OUR DECISION NOT PARTICIPATE, BUT THAT OBVIOUSLY ONE FOR US TO DETERMINE BASED ON OUR APPRECIATION OF SITUATION. HE WANTED AMBASSADOR BOWDLER TO KNOW THAT HE HAD FOUND POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH DELEGATIONS HERE, INCLUDING BRAZIL. HE SAID THESE DISCUSSIONS INDICATED THAT ACTION ALONE THE LINES OF THE GOU POSITION AS DISCUSSED BETWEEN HIM AND BOWDLER WAS MOST PROBABLE.

5. ALVAREZ REPEATED THAT HE PROFOUNDLY REGRETTED US DECISION, AND THAT WHILE HE DID NOT AGREE WITH IT -- JUST AS MANY OTHER DELEGATIONS WOULD NOT -- HE NEVERTHELESS APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS THE MATTER. HE ADDED HE WOULD INFORM OTHER DELEGATIONS THIS MORNING OF US DECISION (GOU HAS NOT YET DONE SO) AND INTENDED SAY HE HAD BEEN ADVISED OFFICIALLY US WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN WGSTT MEETING BASED ON ITS BELIEF THAT POSTPONEMENT OF BA-MFM DID NOT MAKE HOLDING OF MEETING OPPORTUNE. HE SAID HE WOULD ADD THAT GOU DID NOT AGREE WITH US DECISION NOT TO ATTEND JUST AS GOU DID NOT AGREE WITH DECISION TO POSTPONE BA-MFM. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO AVOID EXTENSIVE QUESTIONING.

6. MICHELIN SAID VERY LITTLE DURING MEETING. STATED HE WOULD INFORM FONMIN BLANCO AND HE ALSO (MICHELIN) REGRETTED OUR DECISION. HE MENTIONED THAT "VARIOUS" DELEGATIONS HAD TOLD HIM THAT EVEN WITH POSTPONEMENT BA-MFM THEY STILL BELIEVED IMPORTANT CONTINUE WITH DIALOGUE THROUGH WORKING GROUPS THAT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.  
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7. IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S QUESTION, OALVAREZ SAID HE DID NOT KNOW YET WHETHER WGSTT WOULD BE POSTPONED OR WOULD CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED. PROBLEM WAS THAT DELEGATIONS ALREADY HERE, BUT HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH DELEGATIONS THIS MORNING.

8. ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL, BUT BOTH MICHELIN AND ALVAREZ OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED WE NOT ATTENDING. DCM BELIEVES,

HOWEVER, THAT THEY UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION ALTHOUGH  
WITHOUT ACCEPTING IT FULLY. AT NO TIME IN CONVERSATION  
WAS ANY QUESTION RAISED IN RESPONSE TO WHAT DCM SAID.  
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